

Montana Water Court
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MONTANA WATER COURT
YELLOWSTONE DIVISION
YELLOWSTONE RIVER, FROM BRIDGER CREEK TO CLARKS FORK YELLOWSTONE
BASIN 43QJ
SECOND PRELIMINARY DECREE

CLAIMANT: Greg H. Langford

OBJECTOR: Joseph Booth

CASE 43QJ-0168-R-2025
43QJ 5929-00

NOTICE OF FILING OF MASTER'S REPORT

This Master's Report was filed with the Montana Water Court on the above-stamped date. Please review this report carefully.

You have **13 days** from the service date of the notice of filing of this report to file a written objection or request an extension of the objection period. Rule 23, Water Right Adjudication Rules; Rule 6, Montana Rules of Civil Procedure. If you file an objection, you must serve a copy of the objection to all parties on the service list found at the end of the Master's Report. The original objection and a certificate of mailing to all parties on the service list must be filed with the Water Court.

If you do not file a timely objection, the Water Court will conclude that you agree with the content of this Master's Report.

MASTER'S REPORT

Greg H. Langford claim 43QJ 5929-00 appeared in the Second Preliminary Decree with the following notice remarks:

ON AUGUST 28, 1986 JOAN B. LANGFORD FILED A LATE OBJECTION TO THE FLOW RATE AND MEANS OF DIVERSION. THIS WILL BE HEARD AFTER PROPER NOTICE ON THE NEXT OBJECTION LIST.

ON DECEMBER 30, 2005 JOSEPH BOOTH AND DIANE BOOTH FILED AN OBJECTION TO THE PRIORITY DATE, FLOW RATE AND VOLUME. THIS IS DEEMED AND DOCKETED AS A LATE OBJECTION AND WILL BE HEARD AFTER PROPER NOTICE ON THE NEXT OBJECTION LIST.

The Joan Langford objection was addressed in the first Preliminary Decree proceedings (then Case 43QJ-65), so it no longer needs to be addressed.

Diane Booth was dismissed from the Case in the December 24, 2025 Court Minutes, Order Entering Default, Order Updating Caption And Service List, Order Placing Case On Hearing Track, And Order Setting Scheduling Conference [Doc. 5].

The January 14, 2026 Court Minutes and Order Setting Filing Deadline [Doc. 6] states:

Mr. Scoones stated that no changes should be made to Langford claim 43QJ 5929-00. It was agreed to provide time for Mr. Booth to review the Langford claim file and his objection, then determine whether to proceed with the objection and whether to hire an attorney. The Court called the Billings DNRC Regional Office after the conference. To review the scanned claim file for Langford claim 43QJ 5929-00, Mr. Booth should telephone Brandy Gray at (406) 247-4426 to make an appointment to visit the Billings DNRC Regional Office and access the scanned file copies. As agreed, it is

ORDERED that Mr. Booth has 45 days to complete his review of Langford claim 43QJ 5929-00 and his objection, then determine if he wants to proceed with his objection and hire an attorney, and

ORDERED that the deadline is **February 26, 2026** for Mr. Booth to file a written statement with the Court and Mr. Scoones informing them of his decision.

Nothing was filed. The April 6, 2026 Order Setting Deadline To Show Cause Why Objection Should Not Be Dismissed [Doc. 7] states:

Pursuant to Rule 22, W.R.Adj.R., it is

ORDERED that the deadline is **May 6, 2026** for Joseph Booth to show cause in writing why his objection should not be dismissed for his failure to prosecute his objection as shown by his failure to file his written statement by February 26, 2026 as ordered.

Nothing was filed. These documents are viewable in the Court's FullCourt Enterprise case management system.

APPLICABLE LAW

Rule 22, W.R.Adj.R., states:

SANCTIONS. If a claimant, objector, or intervenor fails to appear at a scheduled conference or hearing, or fails to comply with an order issued by the water court, the water court, upon motion, or its own initiative, may issue such orders of sanction with regard thereto as are just. Sanctions applied against claimants

may include termination of the claim; or modification of the claim to conform with data provided by the department, information obtained by the court, or information included in an objection. Sanctions applied against objectors and intervenors may include dismissal of the objector or intervenor from the proceeding.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Joan Langford objection was addressed in the first Preliminary Decree proceedings. The notice remark concerning this objection should be removed as no longer relevant.
2. Objector Joseph Booth did not show cause in writing why his objection should not be dismissed for his failure to prosecute his objection. The objection should be dismissed with no changes made to the elements of claim 43QJ 5929-00. The notice remark concerning the Booth late objection should be removed as having served its notice purpose.

CONCLUSION OF LAW

The late objection filed by Joseph Booth should be dismissed with no changes made to the elements of claim 43QJ 5929-00.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based upon the above Findings of Fact and Conclusion of Law, this Master recommends that the Court dismiss the late objection filed by Joseph Booth with no changes made to the elements of claim 43QJ 5929-00. A Post Decree Abstract of Water Right Claim is served with this Report to confirm no changes have been made to the elements of this claim in the state's centralized record system.

ELECTRONICALLY SIGNED AND DATED BELOW

Service Via USPS Mail:

Joseph Booth
105 Frontage Rd E
Reed Point, MT 59069-8054

Service Via Electronic Mail:

Christopher T. Scoones
Scoones Law PLLC
chris@scooneslaw.com
(Atty for: Greg H. Langford)

**POST DECREE
ABSTRACT OF WATER RIGHT CLAIM**

**YELLOWSTONE RIVER, FROM BRIDGER CREEK TO CLARKS FORK YELLOWSTONE
BASIN 43QJ**

Water Right Number: 43QJ 5929-00 STATEMENT OF CLAIM

Version: 4 -- POST DECREE

Status: ACTIVE

Owners: GREG H LANGFORD
145 LOWER SWEET GRASS RD
BIG TIMBER, MT 59011-7773

Priority Date: OCTOBER 23, 1893

Type of Historical Right: FILED

Purpose (Use): IRRIGATION

Irrigation Type: FLOOD

Flow Rate: 6.44 CFS

***Volume:** THE TOTAL VOLUME OF THIS WATER RIGHT SHALL NOT EXCEED THE AMOUNT PUT TO HISTORICAL AND BENEFICIAL USE.

Climatic Area: 2 - MODERATELY HIGH

Maximum Acres: 170.00

Source Name: YELLOWSTONE RIVER

Source Type: SURFACE WATER

***Point of Diversion and Means of Diversion:**

<u>ID</u>	<u>Govt Lot</u>	<u>Qtr Sec</u>	<u>Sec</u>	<u>Twp</u>	<u>Rge</u>	<u>County</u>
1		NESESE	30	1S	18E	STILLWATER

Period of Diversion: MAY 1 TO OCTOBER 15

Diversion Means: HEADGATE

Period of Use: MAY 1 TO OCTOBER 15

Place of Use:

<u>ID</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Govt Lot</u>	<u>Qtr Sec</u>	<u>Sec</u>	<u>Twp</u>	<u>Rge</u>	<u>County</u>
1	35.00		SE	28	1S	18E	STILLWATER
2	70.00		S2S2	29	1S	18E	STILLWATER
3	19.00		N2N2NE	32	1S	18E	STILLWATER
4	36.00		N2NE	33	1S	18E	STILLWATER
5	10.00		W2NW	34	1S	18E	STILLWATER

Total: 170.00

Remarks:

THE WATER RIGHTS FOLLOWING THIS STATEMENT ARE ASSOCIATED WHICH MEANS THE RIGHTS SHARE THE SAME .

5929-00 185576-00